

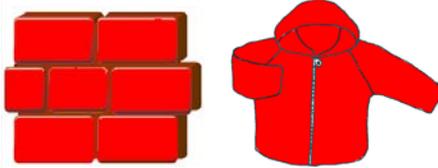


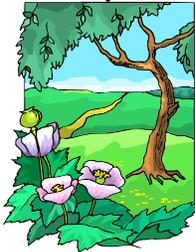
# Play, Learn, and Read At Home

## Developmental Activities for Kid's Birth to Five.

**Story this month:** Raindrop, Plop! By Wendy Cheyette Lewison

**Focus Skill:** When reading this story with your child have them point to the items as you read them. Bring attention to the words that rhyme. Count the number of raindrops that correspond with the number on that page.

	0-12 Months	1-3 Years	3-5 Years
<b>Problem Solving Skills</b>	<p>In the story the girl has a basket of bath toys sitting by the tub. Children between 9-12 months begin to take toys out of a container then put them back in. Hold the container for your child and encourage him to take the toys out one by one. When bath time is done, model for your baby putting the toys back in the basket and encourage him to do it. As your child grows, putting the bath toys in the tub and putting them away can be part of their bath-time routine!</p> 	<p>Toddlers are beginning to notice and understand colors. On almost every page you will be able to find colors to match. Start by just looking at the pictures in the book and pointing out the matches- "red brick and red coat," "pink book and pink soap." For an older child, point and say "red umbrella" then have him find something "red" that matches.</p> 	<p>Counting is a skill preschoolers are interested in and parents also want to teach. This book makes it easy as it teaches rote counting, which is simply counting in order 1,2,3,4, etc. It also teaches quantity as usually the number on the page correlates with the number of big rain drops or other objects in the story. Point to each raindrop and count them out loud with your child. While the book provides the written word it does not offer the number symbol. To expose your child to the number in print write each number on an index card and as you read each page, show your child the number on the card.</p>
<b>Language/ Communication Skills</b>	<p>Between 10-12 months your baby will start to learn some basic body parts if you name them. In the story, there are many opportunities to teach "eye." Take a picture walk thru the book and only point and name "eye" every time you see one (eg, eye girl, eye doggy, eye boots, eye bear, eye whale, etc.). By 12 months, your child should imitate your point and the word "eye." You will be surprised how many eyes are watching you!</p>	<p>A toddler's language is exploding and they are interested in knowing about everything in their world. Take a picture walk through the story and simply name everything you see; duck, shell, book, towel, shoe, hat, sock, etc. Eventually you will be able to ask your child "Where is the dog?" and have them point to it. Finally have your child look thru the book and label everything!</p> 	<p>Preschoolers are growing in their understanding of location words such as; in, out, on, off, under, up, down, etc. As you are reading the book stop to talk about where things are. For example; the boat is <b>IN</b> the water, the dog is <b>ON</b> the stool, the squirrel is going <b>DOWN</b> the tree, and the shoe is <b>UNDER</b> the toy box. Hide different objects around the house and ask your child to tell you, using location words, where he finds them.</p>
<b>Small/Fine Motor Skills</b>	<p>In the story the girl is taking a bubble bath. Add some fun to your baby's bath time by blowing bubbles while your child is in the bath tub! Babies between 9-12 months are starting to isolate their index finger to learn to point. Blow a bubble then model popping them with your index finger for your baby. As they are popping the bubbles say "Pop, pop, pop!"</p> 	<p>Have fun in the bath tub by allowing your child to explore toys they don't usually play with such as small sponges, bath squinters, eye droppers or an empty dish soap container, etc. Squeezing these items develops and strengthens your child's muscles in their hands which help them with their writing skills later on.</p> 	<p>Mud and dirt make great mediums to play in. After a rain, float boats in mud puddles, create a mud castle surrounded by a moat. Haul dirt in trucks and drive cars on roads. Use other items such as sticks, rocks, leaves, acorns, pinecones, and flowers to mix in with your mud. This type of play stimulates your child's imagination, offers wonderful sensory experiences and an appreciation for nature. If it hasn't rained in a while, get out the hose and make your own mud anytime!!</p>

	0-12 Months	1-3 Years	3-5 Years
<b>Large/Gross Motor Skills</b>	In the story there is a picture of a ball. By about 11 months of age your child will be interested in playing a simple game with the ball. Play “catch” with your baby by sitting down and rolling the ball back and forth. As you are rolling the ball say a phrase such as “Roll, roll, and catch!” As you continue to do this, the easier it will be for your baby to catch on!	While it’s raining or after the rain stops, both <u>you</u> and your toddler put on your rain attire and go outside and jump in rain puddles like the girl in the story! Children between the ages 22-30 months should be able to jump in place with both feet. Children between 27-29 months should be able to jump backwards. 	On a rainy day, your preschooler will be interested in putting on their rain attire and going outside to play! Running and jumping through puddles will be an enjoyable activity! Encourage your child to jump <u>over</u> rain puddles, getting a little messy of course! Children between 3 ½ and 4 years should be able to jump forward at least two feet.
<b>Self-Help Skills</b>	Getting your baby dressed can be a challenge, depending on the day. Babies 10 ½ months to 12 months start to cooperate while dressing by extending their arm or leg. For example, putting their arm out to put on their coat or their leg out to put on their shoe. Present your child with his coat then pause and wait for him to respond by lifting his arm to assist you.	In the story the girl comes inside and takes off her coat, hat, and boots after playing outdoors. After playing outside with your child, encourage them to come inside and take off their hat, boots, and possibly their own coat. Children between 15-16 ½ months should be able to take off their hat. Between 18-24 months they should be able to take off their own boots.	In the story the girl dresses herself after taking a bath. After your child’s bath time, encourage them to put on their own clothes. Children over three should be able to put on their own underwear, socks, pants, and pull-over shirts with supervision. Learning to dress themselves promotes pride in your child for this accomplishment.
<b>Social-Emotional Skills</b>	Singing simple songs to your baby promotes bonding and attachment-try these on a rainy day. <b><u>Rain, Rain, Go Away</u></b> Rain, rain, go away; Come again another day; Little (your child’s name) wants to play. <b><u>It's raining, it's pouring</u></b> It's raining, it's pouring. The old man is snoring. He went to bed and bumped his head, And he couldn't get up in the morning.	In the story, the girl looks out the window at the birds and squirrels. Take your toddler to the window and play an “I spy game.” Take turns saying: “I spy a <u>tree</u> ,” encourage your child to take a turn by saying “your turn” and starting the phrase with him “I spy a ____”. Make sure you point at the item that you see! 	Preschoolers are starting to understand and enjoy pretend play. Whether it’s raining or sunny go outside and play “bakery” with your child. Give your child cups, pitchers, bowls, spoons, muffin tins, cookie sheets etc. to take outside. Use dirt as your “flour” and make some tasty treats. Save old donut boxes or bags to put your baked good in and sell your products to friends!! 

Try making this recipe with your kids on a raining day...they will love making and EATING it!!

## Worm Dirt Cake

1 to 1 ¼ Pkg Oreo cookies  
1 (8oz) pkg cream cheese  
½ cup butter, softened  
1 cup powdered sugar  
3 cups milk

1 (12 oz) tub Cool Whip  
2 (3 ½ oz) pkg. instant vanilla pudding  
½ tsp. vanilla  
4 gummy worms

Crush Oreos. Put 1/3 of the crushed Oreos into a new, clean flower pot. Set aside. Mix butter, cream cheese and sugar and vanilla together. Set aside. Combine milk and pudding mix. Fold Cool Whip into the pudding. Fold together pudding mixture and butter-cream cheese mixture. Layer this mixture (1/3) onto the crumbled cookies in the pot. Next, add another layer of the pudding mixture, then another layer of cookie crumbs, continuing until all ingredients are used. As you’re layering the ingredients, decoratively place the gummy worms in the “soil” so they will be seen emerging. Place a clean plastic daisy or two in the pot. Chill in refrigerator 3-4 hours before serving.

**The Play, Learn and Read at Home** activities are brought to you by the Ionia County Intermediate School District’s Great Parents Great Start program. Children move thru predictable stages of development. The activities provided above are meant to be a guide. If you have concerns about your child’s development please call Start Smart at 616-527-4900 ext. 1461 or 1-888-742-4491. For more information check us out at [www.ioniaisd.org](http://www.ioniaisd.org) or email us at [cgranzo@ioniaisd.org](mailto:cgranzo@ioniaisd.org)